

[1st March 1927]

P R E S E N T—cont.

Seturatnam Ayyar, Mr. M. R.
 Shetty, Mr. A. B.
 Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
 Siva Raj, Mr. N.
 Slater, C.I.E., Mr. S. H.
 Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
 Soundara Pandia Nadar, Mr. W. P. A.
 Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
 Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
 Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
 Subrahmanya Mooppanar, Mr. S.
 Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
 Swami, Mr. K. V. R.

Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.
 Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
 Tireman, C.I.E., Mr. H.
 Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
 Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
 Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
 Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
 Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
 Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
 Venkiah, Mr. S.
 Wood, Mr. C. E.
 Zamindar of Gollapalli.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new Members were sworn in :—

Major A. J. H. RUSSELL, C.B.E., I.M.S.
 Mr. HERBERT HAWLEY, M.Sc., F.I.C.
 Mr. H. F. P. HEARSON.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924.]

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Extent of the Romperu drain.

* 110 Q.—Mr. G. PREMAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when was the six furlongs limit of Romperu drain first made;
 (b) whether there have been any improvements made since then;
 (c) what is the approximate sum spent by the Government for the improvements up to date;

(d) whether the Government have received any memorials or petitions explaining the present difficulties of the ryots owning land within six furlongs from the Romperu drain;

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(e) whether the Government have taken any action to remove the difficulties of the ryots ; and

(f) whether Government propose to change the limit from six to three furlongs at least ?

A.—(a) In 1925.

(b) & (c) No improvements to the drain have been carried out recently.

(d) A memorial was received from the ryots of Ipurupalem Vada, Bapatla taluk, in December 1925.

(e) & (f) Orders have recently been issued relaxing the prohibition in the case of lands situated on the left side of the drain and those lands on the right side already held on patta except those cases in which cultivation is detrimental to public interest. Instructions have been issued that in such cases the lands should be acquired and the pattadars granted other lands in exchange. Absolute prohibition is confined to new cultivation and extensions of existing cultivation within six furlongs on the right side of the drain measured from the centre of its defined course.

Substitution of machinery for manual labour in the Mettur Project.

* 111 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal before the Government to reduce the number of men employed or to be employed under the Mettur scheme, and to substitute machinery ;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the desirability of employing a large number of hands at a time of great distress and unemployment in this Presidency ; and

(c) whether the Government have arrived at any conclusion, and if so, to what effect ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 2 put by the hon. Member for South Kanara at the meeting of the 24th January 1927. There will be abundant scope for manual labour notwithstanding the fullest use of machinery.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“This question, I may say, Sir, has been answered after the last question was answered in January last and I want the hon. the Law Member to give me, with reference to what has appeared in the papers recently that this special officer came to Madras and stayed long evidently for an interview with the hon. the Law Member and others, a definite answer to clause (a) of the question as to whether this machinery will not take away the scope for employment for a very large number of hands. There is no use of saying there is abundant scope for manual labour. I want to be clear whether the proposed Rs. 60 lakhs to be spent upon machinery is to be spent and whether that will mean a necessary reduction of labour and whether all that will be done after taking the Council into confidence. I have specifically asked whether the Government have